



## Indiana Housing & Community Development Authority

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

### **Communities for a Lifetime Announces Planning Grant Recipients**

INDIANAPOLIS- Lt. Governor Becky Skillman announced three recipients of a pilot grant to study how to make their communities friendly for residents of all ages. Communities for a Lifetime, a collaborative effort among state agencies, educational institutions and non-profit organizations, encourages cities and towns to welcome, value, and support the meaningful participation of people of all abilities across the entire lifespan.

The winning communities who will receive \$16,000 planning grants are:

- Huntington
- Linton
- Valparaiso

"Communities for a Lifetime is truly a collaborative and innovative effort for Indiana," said Lt. Governor Becky Skillman, who chairs the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority. "For the first time communities are looking at their long term sustainability and determining what solutions will ensure their residents are invested and thriving in their communities of choice for years to come."

Through a competitive process, three of the nine communities who submitted a letter of interest were selected to participate in this pilot program. They will receive grants to complete a 5-month planning process that will include determining their local need and walkability to food, medical care, and amenities. Other aspects will include setting safety standards, finding ways to locally promote intergenerational interactions and civic engagement, and maximizing independence for their residents.

"This initiative puts Indiana at the leading edge of the growing age-friendly community movement," said Dr. Phil Stafford, Director of the Center on Aging and Community at the Indiana Institute on Disability and Community. "We look forward to path-breaking work by these three communities."

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*The Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCDA), chaired by Lt. Governor Becky Skillman, creates housing opportunity, generates and preserves assets, and revitalizes neighborhoods by investing financial and technical resources in the development efforts of qualified partners throughout Indiana. IHCDA believes that growing Indiana's economy starts at home. For more information, go to [www.ihcda.in.gov](http://www.ihcda.in.gov). For updates from Lt. Governor Skillman and the agencies she oversees, please sign up at [www.lg.in.gov](http://www.lg.in.gov).*